Professional Development

MHPOD has now been accredited for CPD by a number of professional organisations.

They include:

ACMHNM, APS, OTAus, AASW , ACRRM , RANZCP, Speech Pathology Aust.

For further details go to www.mhpod.gov.au

Upcoming Events

- **TheMHS Conference — Confronting Self Harm**

  "From understanding to responding"

  23 –24 February 2012 Sydney NSW Australia

  Watch for the NSWIOP booth and MHPOD Stand.

  For further info www.themhs.org

- **Greater Western Sydney 8th Annual Mental Health Conference ACMHN Inc.**

  "Professional Wellbeing: Embrace, Enlighten, Empower"

  30th March 2012—Sebel Hotel Parramatta

  An abstract has been accepted "MHPOD : Embrace, Enlighten, Empower"

  See you there …. For further information go to www.acmhn.org

- **38th International Mental Health Nursing Conference ACMHN Inc.**

  "The Fabric of Life" Darwin Convention Centre 2nd—5th October 2012

  Call for abstracts— close 13th May 2012 For further information go to www.acmhn.org

Implementation Steering Group for MHPOD

Marc Reynolds
Amy Shearden
Michelle Bradley
Alison Sneddon
Liz Abbott
Mark Joyce
Lynda Mary Wood
Pam Brinsmead
Marcia Fogarty
David McLeod
Clair Edwards
Anna Lester
Sue Foley
Tracy Robinson
Michelle Bradley
`Helena Bernard
Stuart Guy
Marcia Fogarty
Tania Skippen
Maxine McCarthy
Nagewa Rahme
Mick Blair

MHPOD

www.nsw.mhpod.gov.au

or for further resources

www.mhpod.gov.au

LARA says : "Don't forget to ask for a starter pack for your new grads"

ISSUE 01 January 2012

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ONLINE DEVELOPMENT

MHPOD

Solutions For New Grads

NSWIOP has recently concluded a project to write a Graduate transition resource for Nursing graduates in NSW in collaboration with NAMO.

MHPOD is a unique feature of this resource and will aid in the transition of new graduates into mental health in NSW.

Look out for your copy - soon to be released.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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this issue

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Exploring Opportunities in Regional Areas.

The first Local Health Districts to register users with MHPOD was the North Coast and Mid North Coast Local Health Districts.

Helena Bernard — Local Coordinator and Workforce Development Officer rallied the local educators and enlisted them as facilitators for their local service areas.

The local team is now composed of Pam Harper, Julia Atkins, Shane Schofield and more recently at Tweed Heads, Mr. Dan Sullivan.

They all recognise the value of MHPOD to staff working in Rural, Regional and Remote areas and now play a valuable role in the role out of MHPOD to the local services in the North Coast of New South Wales. Very early on it was suggested that they would like a learning pathway established on MHPOD that highlighted the topics that would be of most value to the staff of the North Coast and Mid North Coast as they began to use this online learning tool. This is now available and others can use this as a learning pathway if they wish. Other LHD's may also wish to follow this lead — contact the project officer for details.

MHPOD was introduced to the North Coast at the Rural and Remote Mental Health Conference at Coffs Harbour and this was then followed up with a roadshow demonstrating to local managers the benefits of MHPOD and how it can be used in the clinical setting.

The demonstration included how to use the modules in a blended learning situation; how it can be used in clinical supervision; graduate transition; orientation of new staff; and as a follow up to RCA analysis to improve issues identified—such as clinical documentation.

Our congratulations go to Pam Harper who is now the first person in New South Wales to complete all modules, well done Pam.

Below is a photo of the booth at the Rural Remote Mental Health Conference at Coffs Harbour.

MHPOD

New resources available for MHPOD users and facilitators

YOU can now access two new resources to help you introduce new learners to MHPOD.

One is a PowerPoint presentation designed for educators/facilitators to give to learners. It provides an overview of MHPOD and can be tailored to suit your particular service .

The second new resource is a User Manual for first-time MHPOD users.

The manual outlines how to login to MHPOD and contains practical computer activities. By completing these activities, new users have an opportunity to become familiar with MHPOD before starting a topic.

These have been developed to help support educators when they introduce MHPOD to new users in their service.

"The PowerPoint presentation aims to assist educators by outlining the key points about MHPOD for a new learner audience," Mick said.

"The workbook is for new learners to complete, ideally where they can work through the on-line exercises with assistance available if required.

"The workbook also pro-vides instructions on what to do if new learners forget their username, password (or both)." - he added.

For a copy of either contact Mick Blair.

What first-time users really need to know.

We asked 5 educators the things they would've done differently when introducing MHPOD to the workplace

Site contacts and educators are encouraged to provide support to learners, especially those with less developed computer skills, to ensure that their first experience with MHPOD is a good one.

You might like to consider: booking a computer lab or making certain computers available for MHPOD at times when someone will be on hand to support learners during their first log in organising a training session to run through MHPOD functionality (you could ask learners to confirm that they have received the "welcome to MHPOD" email before attending the training session) using a buddy system to group learners together training "champions" to support their colleagues

Mick Blair is available online or in person to assist you with these options.

The implementation in the North Coast LHD revealed that staff were not sure what to do when they got a Knowledge Check question wrong.

"Some staff had to get help on how to have another attempt at the questions - it was necessary to explain that you have to go back into the learning plan before trying the Knowledge Check question again," Pam Harper said.

"One staff member worked out that if the questions are answered incorrectly three times in a row, then you need to close and re-open the topic", she added.

This situation occurred when the staff member identified an error with the answer to a knowledge check question. They notified the national MHPOD team about the error for their investigation.

To avoid any frustration, learners should be encouraged to contact their local MHPOD site contact if they have a query about a topic's content, knowledge check or technical functions. MHPOD welcomes all feedback about MHPOD, as with any

"Becoming a new user means you must actively take the reins"

new system glitches can occur.

Some of the more experienced staff undertaking the pilot considered some of the content too basic.

However, even highly experienced staff can benefit from MHPOD, as Pam notes.

"Basic standards must be met even though they have reached a more advanced stage in their practice. I will be emphasising this point in the future when requiring more experienced practitioners to complete MHPOD topics".

Most areas are particularly looking forward to the two CAMHS specific MHPOD topics approved for development - "CAMHS and youth mental health: conditions and assessments" and "CAMHS and youth mental health: interventions".

The National Mental Health Workforce Advisory Committee has approved these topics for development, along with 11 others, but at this stage it is not known when they will be available.

MHPOD Solutions for NGO's

NON-GOVERNMENT (NGO) mental health services have until 9 March 2012 to submit an expression of interest to participate in an MHPOD pilot for NGOs.

The purpose of the pilot is to assess whether MHPOD is useful to workers in the NGO mental health sector.

"MHPOD was developed primarily for social workers, occupational therapists, mental health nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists in public mental health services but it may also be helpful for other groups working with people who have a serious mental ill-ness" says Mark Davies

The three month pilot will run at a number of selected NGO services across Australia and is expected to start in June.

There will be metropolitan and rural or remote areas selected for the pilot site.

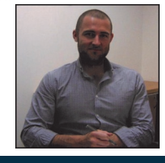
The panel will choose pilot participants according to their commitment to professional development and practice improvement, as well as other specific criteria.

NGO services must receive funding from either of the new Commonwealth pro-grams, Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS) and Day to Day Living (D2DL) to be able to participate.

Participation of mental health workers at pilot sites will, however, not be limited to PHaMS and D2DL workers.

More information about the pilot including how to submit an expression of interest is available at www.mhpod.gov.au.

Mark Davies (Senior Project Officer, Vic Department of Health) is involved in the development and implementation of the pilot.



This Month's Q&A MHPOD Tips

Q What do I DO if I have forgotten my MHPOD username, password or both

A. All you need to know is your work email address and then follow the instructions below:

- **Go to www.nsw.mhpod.gov.au**
- **Click "I forgot my password"**
- **Click "Temporarily allow**
- **Enter your work email address when prompted**
- **Go to your email inbox and open the email with the heading "Password Recovery Request for MHPOD elearning Portal"**
- **Click on the long link in the email which will start with http://www.nsw.mhpod.gov.au/profile.html....etc**
- **Enter a password, then enter the same password again (to confirm it) and press update**

EYE ON IT
Current Trends

Uploading new users into MHPOD is one task for facilitators that although often a one off can become arduous if care is not taken to get the information right the first time round.

Tips that have been given to make this task just that bit easier are as follows:

- Use the Master Spreadsheet for all loading of new users.
- Cut and paste email address from OUTLOOK or GROUPWISE to ensure no typo's (they are inevitable).
- Do not change service names through this process - if this has to be done it should be through the local coordinator to the project officer.

REPORTS
Monthly Data

Registered Users to date by Local Health District.

SESLHD	23
ISLHD	203
HNELHD	101
MNCLHD	207
NNSWLHD	297
NSLHD	93
CCLHD	51
FWLHD	2
WNSWLHD	4
NBMLHD	2
SWSLHD	369
SLHD	455
MLHD	57
SNSWLHD	57
FMHN	4